

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 7, and 8 are allowed. Claims 1 – 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC § 102. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims, as explained below.

Allowed Claims

At page 3 of the Detailed Action the Examiner has allowed claims 5, 7 and 8. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the determination of allowance.

The Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

At pages 3 of the Detailed Action the Examiner has restated his rejection of Claims 1 – 4 and 6 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Liu, US patent 5,774,917. In accordance with the observations of the Examiner, and in order to more clearly distinguish Liu, applicants have rewritten claims 1 and 6 as indicated. The rewriting of the claims is supported throughout the specification and the figures of the application as filed; no new matter is added.

Claims 2 – 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Examiner's concerns and that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and immediate allowance of the claims.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fee required for this response to Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Applicant requests that any questions concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at (212) 895-2906.

I certify that this paper, together with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 13 APRIL 2006



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